

**MIDDLE ATLANTIC
Region 1
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Professional Development Award: Philadelphia Regional
Chapter of the Medical Library Association
MLA Philadelphia Regional Chapter
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Executive Summary

The Philadelphia Regional Chapter of the Medical Library Association (MLA-Phil) received funding to underwrite two workshops over the course of the spring on emerging roles for information professionals: Data Curation for Information Professionals and Translational Bioinformatics.

Our primary goal was to support the continuing education needs of chapter members. We wanted librarians who completed these two workshops to have a greater understanding of the availability of bioinformatics products and services and to know how to collaborate with researchers and on the process of creating a data management plan for their grant proposals.

The objectives of this project were to develop a new program, Data Curation for Information Professionals, with MLA CE credits, and to underwrite the cost for participants of two programs, Data Curation for Information Professionals and Translational Bioinformatics.

Our primary target population was MLA members in the Philadelphia Regional Chapter. Secondary audiences were SLA members in the Philadelphia Chapter and members of HSLANJ (Health Sciences Librarians of New Jersey.)

Partners were the libraries of Thomas Jefferson University and Drexel University, the Philadelphia chapter of SLA, HSLANJ, and the NY/NJ Regional Chapter of MLA.

19 people attended the all day Translational Bioinformatics workshop and 33 attended the Data Curation for Information Professionals talk. Evaluations were above average across the board. Overall comments were positive. People learned something new.

These events were both related to the Chapter's goal of supporting Jerry Perry's MLA Presidential Priority on clinical translational science initiatives (http://www.mlanet.org/about/leaders/president_11-12/gp_priorities.html).

A summary of the Data Curation event is posted at <http://www.mlaphil.org/wp/events/2012/05/11/continuing-education-program-data-curation-for-information-professionals/> and one is being written for the Translational Bioinformatics that will be available soon.

Minority Populations Served

African Americans: No
American Indians/Alaska Natives: No
Asian Americans: No
Hispanics/Latinos: No
Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders: No
Other: No

Approaches and Interventions Used

Lydia Whitman and Dan Kipnis recruited speakers for the Data Curation program. Jenny Pierce worked with the speakers and submitted a request to the Clearinghouse for CE credit.

Dan Kipnis was the contact person at Jefferson where the Data Curation session took place. Lydia was the instructor liaison. Jenny Pierce worked with Linda Katz at Drexel for the space for the Translational Bioinformatics workshop and was the liaison with Diane Rein, the instructor.

Lydia, Jenny and Linda are all members of the chapter board. Dan has been on the board. Programs were cross promoted on the HSLANJ, SLA Philadelphia and MLA Philadelphia mailing lists. Programs were listed on the SLA Philadelphia and MLA Philadelphia website. Reminders were sent repeatedly. Online registration was set up through Acteva.

Links to MLA Clearinghouse records for each event Data Curation for Information Professionals <http://cech.mlanet.org/node/696>
Translational Bioinformatics <http://cech.mlanet.org/node/587>

Data Curation was recorded. Dan Kipnis uploaded the file to Jefferson's digital commons at http://jdc.jefferson.edu/data_curation/2012/March16/1/
There is a pdf handout at the same location.

Evaluation Activities

Both projects were evaluated with MLA standard evaluation paperwork.

All participants received MLA certificates.

We did meet our original goals and objective.

Problems or Barriers Encountered

The original date we planned for the Data Curation session had to be canceled due to the MLA webcast that was announced only one month prior to the event, but we were able to reschedule Data Curation for a later date.

The Translational Bioinformatics workshop had to have computers for hands-on learning but we were able to use the computer lab at Drexel University's Hahnemann Library. There was a problem with technology during the workshop. The projector had been set to shut off after 2 hours and no one knew it. Luckily the instructor and site coordinators were very quick and figured out how to fix it.

Continuation Plans

CE in the region will continue. Right now we are working on a survey for chapter members to determine their CE goals over the next year. We are also preparing to present another CE session in August sponsored by the chapter and MLA National. It is part of MLA's Developing Disaster Information Specialization Program. We will be co-sponsoring "Ethical and Legal Aspects of Disaster Response." In addition, we have an Advanced PubMed class tentatively scheduled for November 16.

Impact

These events supported Jerry Perry, 2011-2012 MLA President, presidential goal on clinical translational science initiatives (http://www.mlanet.org/about/leaders/president_11-12/gp_priorities.html).

We provided educational opportunities to librarians and library students in the region on an important, emerging topic. The archived Data Curation presentation has been viewed 80 times since it was loaded on March 21st.

Lessons Learned

This was my first time working on the creation of a MLA certified CE program. It was easier than I thought.

It is important to gather input from stakeholders, which we did in the form of a survey. In the summer of 2011 the Philadelphia MLA chapter ran a survey for its members gauging interest in programming, and more than 85% of the membership was somewhat or very interested in informatics as a topic, with 40% being very interested.

Other

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